Modern Norwegian

Modern Norwegian (Norwegian: *moderne norsk*) is the Norwegian language that emerged after the Middle Norwegian transition period (1350-1536) and Dano-Norwegian. The transition to Modern Norwegian is usually dated to 1525, or 1536, the year of the Protestant Reformation and the beginning of the kingdom of Denmark–Norway (1536-1814).

In contrast to Old Norse, Modern Norwegian has simplified inflections and a more fixed syntax. Old Norse vocabulary is to a considerable degree substituted by Low German, and this is the main reason why Modern Norwegian, together with contemporary Norwegian in general, Danish and Swedish, is no longer mutually intelligible with Insular Nordic (Icelandic and Faroese), except from some Nynorsk/Høgnorsk and dialect users to a lesser extent.

While Modern Norwegian is a linguistic term with a specific historical meaning, contemporary Norwegian also includes the Dano-Norwegian koiné now commonly known as *Standard Østnorsk* (Standard East Norwegian) and the related official written standard *Bokmål*. *Standard Østnorsk* is spoken by a large and rapidly growing minority of Norwegians, and Bokmål is by far the most widely used written language, even among users of Modern Norwegian dialects.

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In contrast to Nynorsk

The Norwegian linguistic term for Modern Norwegian is *nynorsk*, literally *New Norwegian*. Nynorsk is also the name of a Norwegian written standard based on Modern Norwegian dialects, as opposed to Bokmål, which branched off the Danish language after the dissolution of Denmark–Norway in 1814 and was gradually reformed using the Norwegian dialects and Nynorsk as a guideline.

The terms *Nynorsk*, *Modern Norwegian* and *Contemporary Norwegian* are somewhat confusing, because in Norwegian the same term *Nynorsk* is used for the first two, while *Contemporary*

Modern Norwegian	
Moderne norsk; Standard østnorsk (Standard East Norwegian), Høydansk (High Danish)	
Region	Norway
Era	16th century to present
Language family	Indo-European ▪ Germanic ▪ North Germanic ▪ Continental Scandinavian ▪ Norwegian Danish ▪ **Modern Norwegian**
Early forms	Old Norse ▪ Old West Norse Old East Norse ▪ Old Norwegian Old Danish ▪ Middle Norwegian Medieval Danish ▪ Norwegian dialects Dano-Norwegian
Writing system	Latin
Language codes	
ISO 639-1	no (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?iso_639_1=no)
ISO 639-2	nor (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=331)

Norwegian could easily be called *moderne norsk* (literally *Modern Norwegian*) in Norwegian.

ISO 639-3	nor
Glottolog	*None*

See also

Language history

- Old Norse language
- Old Norwegian
- Middle Norwegian
- Dano-Norwegian
- Norwegian language

Orthographies

Danish origin

- **Bokmål**: official written language, based on the Danish language, but with significant changes. Also known as *bogmaal* and *bogsprog* until 1899, when the term *riksmål* was adopted. Bokmål was re-adopted as the official name in 1929.
- Riksmål: unofficial, based on Danish and pre-1938 Bokmål, but with some modernisation since. It is standardised by Norwegian Academy for Language and Literature. It was also the official name of Bokmål from its introduction in 1899 until the Storting decided to revert to Bokmål in 1929.

Norwegian origin

- Høgnorsk: unofficial, based on the original Landsmål and pre-1938 Nynorsk. It has no standardising body, but is promoted by Ivar Aasen-sambandet, which hosts a wiki called Mållekken (http://www.ivaraasen.no/wiki/index.php?title=Hovudsida).
- Landsmål: the official name of Nynorsk until 1929, sometimes strictly referring to the original orthography developed by Ivar Aasen.
- **Nynorsk**: official written language, based on the Norwegian Dialects, compiled by Ivar Aasen. It has gone through several reforms and differs significantly from its original form.

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This page was last edited on 10 June 2019, at 23:35 (UTC).

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